## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Patrick M. Hughes et al. | Examiner: Betton, Timothy E.

Serial No.: 10/617,468 | Art Unit: 1614

Filed: July 10, 2003 Confirmation No.: 3251

For: DELIVERY OF AN ACTIVE DRUG TO

THE POSTERIOR PART OF THE EYE

VIA SUBCONJUNCTIVAL OR PERIOCULAR DELIVERY OF A

**PRODRUG** 

Irvine, California

## RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

The May 11, 2007 office action (the "Office Action") in this application requested applicant to elect one of Group I (claims 1-17 and 19) and Group II (claims 18 and 20).

Applicant elects Group I, claims 1-17 and 19 with traverse on the basis that since all claims of both Groups I and II are limited to a an ester prodrug of an active drug, therefore a single search should suffice to search all the claims.

Additionally, and as also requested by the Office Action, applicant elects the drug retinoids. The claims which appear to be readable on this elected polymer are claims 1-17 and 19.

Additionally, and as also requested by the Office Action, applicant elects the disease proliferative vitreal retinopathy. The claims which appear to be readable on this elected polymer are claims 1-17 and 19.

As further requested by the office action, applicant elects as the route of administration subconjunctival. The claims which appear to be readable on this elected drug species are claims 1-17 and 19.

Respectfully Submitted, /Stephen Donovan/

Date: June 15, 2007

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